

**Editorials**

# George Bush And the CIA

WHEN PRESIDENT FORD named former Congressman George Bush to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency last January, there were publicly expressed doubts about what some called a "political appointment."

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye (Dem-Hawaii) chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said at the time he had entertained doubts that a political figure such as Bush, who had been chairman of the Republican National Committee, should head the CIA, a job the Senator said should have gone to a "professional."

But when Bush announced last week that he plans to resign the CIA post next January 20, Inouye said Bush's performance as head of the then-beleaguered agency had removed all his doubts.

BUSH, HE SAID, "was one of the best we had. The morale of the intelligence community has been inspired by Bush's leadership." And Bush also received high marks from intelligence professionals, such as Ray S. Cline, the former deputy director of the agency, who said: "Bush reached down and pulled up the best of the younger people there."

After almost two years of congressional and press disclosures of the foreign and domestic abuses with which the agency had been charged, morale at the CIA was understandably low when Bush took over. In a surprisingly short period, however, Bush, in his low-key fashion, and after personally touring CIA operations in Europe, was able to report in April: "Our personnel people say the quantity of applications is up. This is an expression of confidence in the agency. Morale is A-One."

In one sense, Bush acted toward the agency as Mr. Ford did to the country as whole. As the President restored a post-Watergate sense of confidence in government, so did Bush restore to his agency a sense of recapturing belief in its abilities and necessity.